

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 HA-05 ACDA-12

AID-05 TRSE-00 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15

NEA-10 EB-08 COME-00 /129 W

-----058855 171743Z /46

R 170651Z JUL 78

FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7847

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY ROME

USNIT HAVANA 030

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

USMISSION USNATO

USICA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 KHARTOUM 3180

DEPT PASS OAU COLLECTIVE

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: PORG OAU MASS XA

SUBJECT: OAU COUNCIL OF MINISTERS, DAY VIII: MILITARY INTER-
VENTION IN AFRICA CONTINUES TO DOMINATE DEBATE

REF: A. KHARTOUM 3159 (NOTAL), B. KHARTOUM 3046 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY: COUNCIL OF MINISTERS (COM DEVOTED ENTIRE DAY TO
DISCUSSION OF MILITARY INTERVENTION IN AFRICA AND WAS UNABLE
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TO REACH ANY CONCLUSION. THOSE COUNTRIES RECEIVING WESTERN
MILITARY ASSISTANCE, AS WELL AS THOSE RECEIVING SOVIET AND
CUBAN ASSISTANCE, STRONGLY DEFENDED THEIR RIGHTS TO DO SO,
ALTHOUGH VIGOROUSLY ATTACKED. THOSE COUNTRIES WITHOUT ANY
FOREIGN MILITARY PRESENCE URGED THE WITHDRAWAL OF ALL
NON-AFRICAN FORCES FROM CONTINENT, U.S. WAS NOT
SPECIFICALLY CRITICIZED, EXCEPT IN BROADEST SENSE AS

WESTERN AND NATO COUNTRY. LEVEL OF RHETORICAL ACRIMONY REMAINS INTENSE, ALTHOUGH IT DOES NOT APPEAR TO CARRY MUCH SUBSTANCE. END SUMMARY

1. ALTHOUGH HAVING COMPLETED DEBATE PREVIOUS DAY ON CONGOLESE PROPOSALS FOR PAN-AFRICAN MILIARY FORCE (REF A), COM RESUMED BY EXPANDING ON SAME THEME UNDER DIFFERENT TITLE, NAMELY PROPOSALS ON MILITARY INTERVENTION IN AFRICA (PARA 2, REF B). DEBATE CONSUMED ENTIRE DAY OF MEETINGS AND DID NOT ACHIEVE ANY CONCLUSION DESPITE SOME 30 SPEAKERS. ANOTHER 10 SPEAKERS ARE INSCRIBED FOR MORNING SESSION JULY 15.

2. DEBATE FOLLOWED ENTIRELY PREDICTABLE PATTERN, WITH EACH STATE THAT HAS A FOREIGN TROOP PRESENCE DEFENDING THEIR SOVEREIGNTY TO SEEK FOREIGN ASSISTANCE AND THOSE WITHOUT ANY FOREIGN TROOPS CALLING FOR WITHDRAWAL OF ALL NON-AFRICAN FORCES FROM AFRICA. DURING MORNING SESSION LIBERIAN FONMIN DENNIS SAID HIS COUNTRY "WOULD LIKE TO SEE ALL FOREIGN FORCES REMOVED FROM AFRICA - THE CUBANS, THE FRENCH, THE RUSSIANS, THE BELGIANS AND OTHERS." SOMALI FONMIN ABDURAHMAN JAMA BARRE REJECTED ANY "SLECTIVE APPROACH" TO FOREIGN INTERVENTION BUT CONDEMNED "EASTERN-BLOC NEO-IMPERIALIST DESIGNES IN AFRICA", CLAIMING THAT SOMALIA'S SECURITY "IS DIRECTLY THREATENED BY PRESENCE OF SUCH EXTRA-AFRICAN MILIARY FORCES IN

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CLOSE PROXIMITY." SUDAN STATED THAT "INTERVENTION LEADS TO COUNTER-INTERVENTION AND THAT INTERVENTION GETS INCREASINGLY AGGRAVATED UNLESS WE ARE DETERMINED TO CHECK IT. IT IS PROPER FOR MILIARY ASSISTANCE TO SOLVE PROBLEMS OF COLONIALISM AND RACISM BUT NOT TO RESOLVE DIFFERENCES AMOJNG INDEPENDENT AFRICAN STATES OR DOMESTIC PROBLEMS."

3. EGYPTIAN FONMIN GHALI TOOK SAME LINE SAYING "FOREIGN INTERVENTION WEAKENS JOINT AFRICAN ACTION AND CALLS IN COUNTER-INTERVENTIONS AND PRODUCES COLD WAR IN AFRICA." GAMBIAI FONMIN LAMINE JABANG SAID THAT "FOREIGN INTERVENTION IN AFRICA IS CONSIDERED GRAVE INSULT TO AFRICAN STATES." MALIAN FONMIN ALIOUNE BEYE ASSERTED THAT "AFRICA HAS BECOME VICTIM OF SUPER POWER CONFLICTS WHO HAVE THE AIM OF EXPLOITING NATURAL RESOURCES OF CONTINENT. AFRICANS SHOULD SOLVE THEIR PROBLEMS INDEPENDENTLY AND ESTABLISH PAN-AFRICAN PEACEKEEPING FORCE UNDER UMBRELLA OF OAU DEVOTED ONLY TO SERVICE OF AFRICAN CAUSES." ETHIOPIAN FONMIN FELEKE SAID THAT ETHIOPIA WAS AGAINST INTERVENTION IN AFRICA AND THAT "CUBANS ARE PROVIDING ASSISTANCE AT REQUEST OF AFRICAN GOVERNMENTS AND THIS DID

NOT CONSTITUTE INTERVENTION".

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FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

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INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

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AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

ARUFHMD/AMEMBASSY MADRID 060

GRUEHMO/AMEMBASSYNTIMCOW 42

AMEIBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

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4. CHAD AND LIBYAN FONMINS GOT INTO SHOUTING MATCH, FOLLOWING RECENT BREAKDOWN IN MEDIATION TALKS. CHAD FONMIN KAMOUGUE CHARGED THAT "SOME AFRICAN STATES WIDELY KNOWN FOR ENCOURAGING FROLINAT TO IMPOSE CONDITIONS WE CANNOT ACCEPT (E.E. IMMEDIATE WITHDRAWAL OF FRENCH FORCES) WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR FAILURE OF TRIPOLI TALKS." FURTHER ON HE SAID "FOREIGN INTERVENTION AS INEVITABLE COUTCOME OF BIG POWER STRUGGLE ON CONTINENT" NOTING THAT "TALK IS NOW FOCASSED ON FRENCH INTERVENTION WHILE CUBAN AND OTHER POWER INTERVENTION GOES UNCRITISCIZED." KAMOUGUE WONDERED "WHY A STATE SHOULD BE CRITICIZED FOR

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CALLING IN FRIENDLY HELP IF SHE FEELS HER CAPABILITIES ARE NOT ADEQUATE ENOUGH TO DEFEND HERSELF?" LIBYAN FONMIN TURAYKI IN HIS TURN SEVERELY ATTACKED KAMOUQUE SAYING HE SHOULD NOT EVEN BE ALLOWED TO SPEAK BECAUSE HE REPRESENTED A MINORITY REGIME. TURAYKI FURTHER CHARGED THAT AS FORMER FRENCH LEGIONNAIRE KAMOUQUE WAS ONLY DEFENDING FRENCH INTERESTS IN AFRICA. TURAYKI'S ATTACK WAS NOT WELL RECEIVED BY COM.

5. ALGERIAN DELEGATION LEADER LAYACHI YAKER MADE HOUR-ONG HARANGUE AGAINST FRENCH MILITARY AND COMMERCIAL INVOLVEMENT IN AFRICA AND THEIR ROLE DURING SHABA II INVASION. ZKAIRE FONMIN UMBA DI LUTETE RESPONDED IN DEFENSE AND COUNTER-ATTACKED ALGERIA FOR ITS EXTENSIVE ECONOMIC TIES WITH IMPERIALISTS. LUTETE CALIMED AFRICA WAS FIGHTING "IMPERIALISM" NOT IMPERIALISTS AND HE SHARPLY CRITICIZED CUBAN AND SOVIET ROLES IN AFRICA. ANGOLAN FONMIN JORGE ROSE TO DEFEND CUBAN ROLE AS ONE OF ASSISTANCE AND AS NOT BEING INTERVENTIONIST. MOZAMBIQUE FONMIN CHISSANO HAS ALSO DEFENDED CUBAN AND SOVIET ROLES AS HAVING COME AT AFRICAN REQUEST WHEREAS FRENCH AND AMERICAN MILITARY SUPPORT IS, IN MANY CASES, IMPOSED.

6. AS DELEGATES LEFT ASSEMBLY AFTER OBVIOUSLY TIRING SECESSION, EGYPTIAN DELEGATE ASSERTED LEVEL OF DEBATE WAS "STILL HOT, VERY HOT." OAU SPOKESMAN ONU INFORMED PRESS THAT "OAU IS COMPOSED OF STATES WITH MANY DIVERSE SOCIO-ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL SYSTEMS AND THUS DEBATE WAS LENGTHY." HE FINALLY ACKNOWLEDGED THAT MILITARY SUBJECTS WERE "VERY IMPORTANT, PERHAPS THE MOST IMPORTANT ISSUES FACING AFRICA AND OAU." WHILE THUS FAR INCONCLUSIVE, ONU CLAIMED DEBATE WOULD FINISH BY MID-DAY JULY 15. THERE IS EVERY EXPECTATION COM WILL

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REMAIN IN SESSION JULY 16 AND 17 AND POSSIBLY THROUGH FIRST DAY OR TWO OF SUMMIT. IT HAS ALSO BEEN ANNOUNCED SIERRA LEONE WILL HOST 17TH SUMMIT IN 1980 (AFTER LIBERIA) AND TANZANIA WILL HOST 18TH IN 1981.

7. COMMENT: IT IS OBVIOUS FROM DEBATE THAT MILITARY INTERVENTION ISSUE IS CAUSING MAJOR SCHISM AMONG OAU MEMBERS. BUT IT IS LIKELY THAT OAU WILL STILL BE ABLE TO DRAFT SOME LANGUAGE TO SUBMERGE THIS RIFT. PANtheon OF NON-AFRICAN COUNTRIES MILITARILY INVOLVED ON CONTINENT WERE CRITICIZED DURING DEBATE BUT IT IS UNLIKELY THAT SPECIFIC COUNTRIES WILL BE CONDEMNED IN ANY OAU RESOLUTION. MILITARY QUESTIONS HAVE NOW OCCUPIED NEARLY 40 PERCENT OF

PLENARY DISCUSSIONS, EVEN THOUGH THERE ARE ONLY 3 AGENDA
ITEMS OUT OF 40 WHICH TOUCH ON PROBLEM.
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